



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Revenue Estimating Conference Will Determine 2007 Budget

Sikkema and DeRoche want state government to live within its means

Lansing - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and House Speaker Craig DeRoche today reaffirmed their commitment to have state government live within its means.

The two legislative leaders have agreed that the amount of state revenue estimated at the Revenue Estimating Conference on Jan. 12 will be the ceiling for state spending in fiscal year 2007. This commitment is identical to what they promised and delivered in 2005.

"Michigan's economic recovery will depend on many factors, some of which are beyond our control. But one thing I know we can control is the growth of government spending," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "The first question the governor and Legislature should be asking during budget preparation is 'How much money do we have?' That question will be answered on Jan. 12."

DeRoche, R-Novi, agreed, citing the ability of the Legislature to stave off \$300 million in unnecessary tax and fee increases proposed by the governor last year.

"Last year, the Governor asked for \$300 million in new taxes for state spending. The Legislature took a different path and only spent the money we had, not the money we wish we had," DeRoche said. "That common sense approach brought real reform to the way the state writes its budget; reform taxpayers and families deserve and reform we will continue in this year's budget."

The Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Jan. 12. At that meeting, the Senate Fiscal Agency, House Fiscal Agency and the state Department of Treasury will reach consensus on economic forecasts and anticipated state revenues for fiscal year 2006.

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